### Mormonism

### The End of Deception

# Knowing How to Respond 1 Peter 3:15

## BASIC TEACHINGS OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS CONCERNING THE NATURE OF GOD/CHRIST

Mormonism teaches that the Bible is "the word of God as far as it is translated correctly" and Joseph Smith taught that the Book of Mormon is the "fullness of the everlasting gospel" and an addition and supplement to the Bible.

- 1. God was once a man on another planet who progressed to become god of this world. Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, by Joseph Fielding Smith, 345-347; Mormon Doctrine, by Bruce McConkie, pg 321; Abraham 3:2-9; Journals of Discourses, Vol. 6, pg 3.
- 2. This god has a body of <u>flesh</u> and <u>bones</u> and is not a <u>spirit</u>.

  Doctrine and Covenants 103:22; Articles of Faith, by James Talmage, pgs. 42-43; Mormon Doctrine, pg 589; Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, pg 345; Journals of Discourses, Vol. 9, pg 286.
- 3. This god was selected by a council of gods and did not <u>create</u> man, heaven or earth.

  Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, pgs, 348-350, 354 and 372; Mormon Doctrine, pgs 163-164 and 169; Abraham 3:22 plus chapters 4 and 5; Journals of Discourses, Vol. 6, pg 5-6; Doctrine and Covenants 93F29.
- 4. This god has a father, who had a father, etc.

  Mormon Doctrine, pg 322; Journals of Discourses, Vol. 5, pg 19; The Seer, by Orson Pratt, pg 132; Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, pgs 347, 370 and 373.
- 5. This god is <u>married</u> to many <u>wives</u> and has millions of children.

  The Seer, pgs 158 and 172; Mormon Doctrines, pg 516; Doctrine and Covenants, Section 132.
- 6. Each individual has the <u>potential</u> to progress to become a <u>god/goddess</u> of his/her own world. Mormon Doctrine, pg 321; D and C 132:20-21; Articles of Faith, pgs 430 and 530; Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, pgs 346 and 374.
- 7. This god is eternally <u>progressing</u> and learning new things each day to become a <u>better</u> god.

  Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, pgs 345-348 and 373; Articles of Faith, pg 430; Journals of Discourses, Vol. 6, pg 120.
- 8. Jesus was <u>not</u> born of a virgin because Mary was married to <u>god</u> before she married Joseph.

The Seer, pg 158; Mormon Doctrine, pgs 546-547; Doctrines of Salvation, by Joseph Fielding Smith, Vol. 1, pg 18; Journals of Discourses, Vol. 8, pg 115.

- 9. Jesus is the brother of <u>Lucifer</u>.

  Mormon Doctrine, pgs 164, 192, 193, 590; Gospel Through the Ages, by Milton R. Hunter, pg 15.
- 10. Jesus is also progressing and someday he too, may become a god of his own planet. Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, pgs 346-348.

11. Jesus is also married to several women and has many children.

The Seer, pgs 159 and 172; Journals of Discourses, Vol. 2, pg 210 and Vol. 4, pg 259.

12. The blood of Christ is not sufficient for the forgiveness of several sins.

Doctrines of Salvation, Vol. 1, pg 135; Mormon Doctrine, pgs 92-93

Jesus "atoned for Adam's sin, leaving us responsible only for our own sins." The Mormon's second Article of Faith affirms: "We believe that men will be punished for their own sins, and not for Adam's transgression." Salvation begins with Jesus's atonement, but each person must complete the process by doing good works. The official Gospel Principles manual tells us that Jesus "became our savior and he did his part to help us return to our heavenly home. It is now up to each of us to our part and to become worthy of exaltation." (Gospel Principles)

#### WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT THESE TOPICS

- 1. The Bible teaches that God will reprove anyone who says God is like man: *Psalm 50:21; Numbers 23:19; Hosea 11:9; Romans 1:22-23; Psalm 90:2.*
- 2. The Bible teaches that God is a spirit: John 4:24; Luke 24:39; Jeremiah 23:24; Psalm 139:7-10.
- 3. The Bible teaches that God is the only God: Deuteronomy 4:35, 6:4; Isaiah 43:10-11, 44:6-8, and He created the heavens, earth and man out of nothing: Hebrews 11:3; Genesis 1:1; Colossians 1:16-17; John 1:1-4; Romans 11:34-36; Job 38; Jeremiah 10:11-12; Psalm 102:25, 90:2.
- 4. The Bible teaches that we should have no other gods before God: *Exodus 34:14;* Deuteronomy 5:7-9.
- 5. The Bible teaches that they were fools who changed the incorruptible God into an image like corruptible man: Romans 1:22-23; Psalm 50:21; Numbers 23:19; Hosea 11:9.
- 6. The Bible teaches that they will be brought down to the pit who say, "I am a god.": Genesis 3:4-5; Isaiah 14:12-15, 44:6; Psalm 50:21; Ezekiel 28:1-10.
- 7. The Bible teaches that God does not change: Isaiah 43:10-11; Malachi 3:6; 1 Samuel 15:29; John 1:1, 14; Hebrews 1:12, 13:8; James 1:17; Titus 1:2.
- 8. The Bible teaches that the virgin was with child from the Holy Spirit: *Matthew 1:18-23; Luke 1:34-35*.
- 9. The Bible teaches that Jesus created the heavens and the angels, including Lucifer, who is a fallen angel: Isaiah 14:12-15; Psalm 33:6; Hebrews 11:3; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:15-17, 2:9; John 1:3.
- 10. The Bible teaches that Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever: Hebrews 13:8.
- 11. The Bible teaches that Jesus had no home: *Matthew 8:20*; and there is no evidence in the Bible that Jesus ever had any wives or children.
- 12. The Bible teaches that the blood of Jesus cleanses us from ALL sin: Romans 5:8-9; 1 John 1:7-10; Psalm 130:3-4; Ephesians 2:13-16; Colossians 2:13; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4.

## A Comparison of Christians and LDS Beliefs

Christians Believe	Mormons Believe
There is only one God	There is more than one god
God has always been God	God was once a man
God is unchanging	God is progressive
Jesus Christ created all things	Jesus Christ did not create all things
God is a spirit	God has a body of flesh and bones
God created man and he become a living soul	God cannot create manhis spirit has always existed
The blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin	Some sins cannot be remitted by Christ's blood
Jesus is God	Jesus is the spirit brother of Lucifer
Those that do not believe in Jesus are condemned	Some degree of salvation will come to all
The word of the Lord endureth forever	Gospel was lost from the earth
Gospel has been declared	God will yet reveal many great and important things
No man can see God and live	God and Jesus appeared to Joseph Smith
There will be many false prophets	Joseph Smith was a prophet of God
Christ is our great high priest in heaven	Priesthood authority necessary to act for God
Men can call on no name but Jesus to save them	The president of the LDS church holds the keys of salvation for all men now living
Grace granted though faith, not works of righteousness	Grace granted proportionately as we conform to standards of personal righteousness
Jesus said: Its not what goes into the mouth that defiles the man but what comes out of the mouth from the heart	Certain substances must be abstained from before a person can be worthy to enter the temple
No second chance for salvation after death	Baptism for the dead necessary for salvation
Avoid genealogies for they are unprofitable and vain	Genealogical research required as part of salvation for the dead
Law of marriage is for life on earth, not heaven.  Christians will be married to Christ in heaven.	Celestial marriage makes gods in eternity
The temptation to have the power of God is the oldest temptation on earth	Latter-day saints seek godhood
Man should have one wife	Polygamy is an ordinance of the Mormon church
God is no respecter of persons	Negroes in this life are denied the priesthood

All of this information came directly from "Witness To Mormons" published by Concerned Christians.

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#### HOW TO RESPOND

The Christian must be sensitive and understanding of the dilemma the Mormon is in. The Mormon is motivated to remain a Mormon because he or she might endanger a relationship with a loved one. This points to the need for you to. . .

#### Prepare by Prayer

Be sure to pray regularly about your witnessing opportunities. Remember, only God in His mighty power can lift the veil of cultic darkness from the human heart (2 Corinthians 4:4; cf. 3:17; John 8:32). Pray fervently for those you witness to and pray often (Matthew 7:7-12; Luke 18:1-8; James 5:16).

Prayer is especially important if you have a prearranged appointment with a Mormon. In such cases you can pray for the Mormon by name and ask for God's intervention in his or her life.

Also, once the Mormon arrives at your home, be sure to open your time together with a brief prayer – but make sure you do the praying. "Mormons will want to lead in prayer, but it is not proper for a Christian to bow his head while the Mormons pray since they are praying to a 'heavenly Father' who is an exalted man of flesh and bones with numerous wives. This is not the heavenly father of the Bible or Christianity. The Mormons are usually agreeable to you praying, so do so in addition to your earlier praying."

#### Get to Know Mormons on a Personal Level

It is important that you try to develop a personal relationship with the Mormon to whom you want to witness. Make every effort to be hospitable, inviting him (or her) to dinner or refreshments.

Remember, people like to know that you genuinely care for them – so show that you are interested and be a good listener. (As the saying goes, "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care.") Above all, do not be phony about your concern; sooner or later, the Mormon will perceive your true motivation and become disillusioned. Encourage the Mormon to tell you about him – or herself. If he or she has a need and you can reach out in a helpful way, by all means make that a priority. Many Mormons have been taught to believe that only other members of the "one true church" help those in need.

Don't move forward in a mad rush to discuss spiritual things, especially if you have the opportunity to work toward developing a personal relationship. When the Lord opens the door for witnessing, however, be ready to walk through it.

The exception to this rule, of course, is if you know for certain that you will never see that particular Mormon again. Then you will want to cover as much doctrinal ground as possible, biblically refuting the most blatant heresies in Mormon theology and giving a strong personal testimony of what Jesus has done in your life.

#### For Prearranged Meetings, Invite Another Christian

Mormon missionaries, whether full-time or local part-timers, often show up on your doorstep in twos. If you have a prearranged meeting set up with some Mormons, we think it's a good idea to have another Christian friend with you for the meeting. There is

strength in numbers! (Remember, a rope of many strands is not easily broken.) Jesus Himself sent out His disciples "by two and two" (Mark 6:7).

By having another Christian present, you will not only feel more comfortable and bold in confronting the Mormons about their deviant doctrines, you'll also give your friend an opportunity to learn from you about witnessing techniques. As well, your friend can pray silently as you are witnessing – and perhaps may even share a doctrinal insight that you hadn't thought of.

#### **Encourage an Examination of Beliefs**

When a Mormon shows up on your doorstep, one of the first remarks you should make is to encourage him or her to thoroughly examine his or her beliefs. After all, the Bible encourages us to do this.

Second Corinthians 13:5, for example, tells us, "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith." Tell the Mormon that you would like to examine the Scriptures and test both of your religious beliefs by those Scriptures. This will lay a foundation for all that follows.

You might mention that even Mormon leaders encourage such a scriptural examination. Mormon apostle Orson Pratt, for example said: "Convince us of our error of doctrine if we have any, by reason, by logical arguments, or by the word of God, and we will be ever grateful for the information, and you will ever have a pleasing reflection that you have been instruments in the hands of God of redeeming your fellow beings from the darkness which you may see enveloping their minds."

Mormon prophet Joseph Fielding Smith (who later became the tenth president of the LDS church) said, "If Joseph Smith was a deceiver, who willfully attempted to mislead the people, then he should be exposed; his claims should be refuted, and his doctrines shown to be false, for the doctrines of an impostor cannot be made to harmonize in all particulars with divine truth."

No less an authority than Brigham Young also made this powerful and valid challenge: "Take up the Bible, compare the religion of the Latter-day Saints with it, and see if it will stand the test." Take the Mormon up on this offer, and test Mormonism by the Scriptures.

#### Be Kind and Gentle, Yet Firm

It is imperative that Christians not have a hostile attitude when Mormons show up on the doorstep. After all, we are called to share the good news of the gospel with them so that they might be saved from sure destruction (Matthew 28:19-20).

Look at it this way: If you came to find out that some pills in a local store had been laced with cyanide, you'd do everything you could to warn individuals about the danger so they wouldn't be poisoned and killed. What we must realize is that there is also spiritual cyanide being disseminated on a massive level by the Mormon church. Hence, the most loving action we can take when Mormons show up on our doorstep is to warn them of this poison and share the truth with them. To show hostility and turn them away is to short-circuit an opportunity for them to come to the truth and be saved.

While being kind and gentle, however, you must also take a firm stand in setting forth and defending the truth of the gospel. Remember, eternal souls are at stake. Just as

the first-century Christians were bold in their witness for Christ, so also must we be bold witnesses (Acts 2:32; 3:15; 4:33; 13:30-31).

#### Don't Assume All Mormons Have the Same Beliefs

Do not assume all Mormons hold to the same beliefs, nor that all Mormons know exactly what their church teaches about various doctrinal issues. If you witness to Mormons long enough, you will soon discover the wisdom of this policy.

Why are many rank-and-file Mormons unaware of certain teachings officially espoused by their church?

In part this is due to the complex historical development of Mormon doctrine, with new publications and speeches by living prophets redefining and reinterpreting earlier thought. Also, the organization's hierarchical structure allows for beliefs to be embraced by the leadership without being communicated to the general membership or to the public. A prime example of this was the indulgence in plural marriage by Joseph Smith and his inner circle of associates while official church publications and public announcements condemned the practice. Still another reason for doctrinal ignorance on the part of many Mormons is the secretive (they call it sacred) nature of temple ceremonies. Church members who have not earned a "temple recommend" from their local leaders never get to learn the oaths, the key words, the covenants, and the secrets of the priesthood available only to temple Mormons.

#### Don't Tell a Mormon What He or She Believes

In keeping with the above, do not tell Mormons what they believe. Instead, ask them about their beliefs. Say, "Do you believe. . .?"

If they say no to a particular question about their doctrine, you might say, "I am glad you don't believe that, but do you know whether your church teaches it?" If they answer that their church does not teach such a thing, ask, "What would you do if you found out your church does teach that?" Of course, you should be prepared to back up your claims with documented evidence or photocopies from Mormon sources.

#### **Define Your Terms Clearly**

Mormons use many Christian words – such as God, Jesus Christ, atonement, and salvation – but they pour their own cultic meanings into those words. The Christian must ever stand on guard regarding this semantic subterfuge. As Walter Martin said, "What the Mormons mean by theological terms and what the Bible and the true church mean by them are entirely different. The importance of destroying the 'terminology block' cannot be overemphasized. No matter how good your presentation is, and no matter how much you have researched and studied, so that you can present the gospel in an orthodox manner, if you cannot communicate, you are wasting your time. Always define your terms when witnessing to a Mormon.

It is especially important that you do not push for a decision for Christ until you have shown the Mormon the differences between the Mormon Jesus and the Jesus of the Bible. Some Christians have asked a Mormon to pray to receive Jesus, and the Mormon receives the Jesus of Mormonism, not the true Jesus who alone can save.

#### **Take Your Time**

When Mormons show up on the doorstep, the tendency of many Christians is to lambaste them with all the heresies in the Mormon belief system. This is what I call "the flamethrower approach" to cult evangelism. The problem is, this approach rarely yields positive results in terms of leading a cultist to Christ.

A much better approach is to take your time and not force the Mormon to digest more than he or she can take during one sitting. Many cult experts have noted that it is better to focus on one or two issues during each meeting and deal with them thoroughly rather than "get it all out on the table" in a single sitting. (Remember, even Jesus told the disciples, "I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now" – John 16:12. Jesus was sensitive to how much His listeners could handle in a single sitting.)

If the Mormon is moving too fast, jumping around from doctrine to doctrine or verse to verse, slow him down. Suggest to him, "Instead of jumping around, let's make sure that we thoroughly discuss each doctrine (or Bible verse) before we go on to another one."

If you don't follow that policy, you will likely find yourself being taken down "rabbit trails" that rarely lead to anything productive. You will find that you cannot satisfactorily respond to one issue before another is brought up. Make every effort to avoid this pitfall, as the discussion can become meaningless if you don't stay on track long enough to make your point.

Not infrequently the Mormon may interrupt your presentation with a question prefaced with, "Well, what about. . .?" Usually this leads to a change of subject. Kindly remind the Mormon that for clarity's sake it is important that he or she allow you to finish your point. Likewise, be courteous and allow him or her to respond without interruption.

If you engage in a thoughtful discussion during your initial encounter with a Mormon – and you remain kind and respectful in the process – he or she will not only be impressed with your manner but will likely make another appointment to come back to discuss other issues. This is what you want to happen!

The late Wesley Walters, an expert in Mormonism, was right when he said, "Seldom does one lead a Mormon, a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, to Christ at the first encounter. One should be ready for some lengthy conversations over a considerable period of time before the Mormon will be ready to abandon his beliefs for a personal relationship with Christ."

#### Disarm the Mormon's "Testimony"

Sometimes the Mormon will defensively interrupt you with his or her testimony, which is essentially, "I testify to you that Joseph Smith is a prophet of God, the Mormon church is true, Jesus is the Christ, the president of the Mormon church is a prophet on the earth today, and I say this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen."

You might reply, "Your personal testimony is actually invalid because I testify to you that Joseph Smith was a false prophet, the Mormon church is not true, Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior, the president of the Mormon church is not a prophet on the earth today, and I say this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen." Your testimony is just as valid as the Mormon's. With the force of his or her testimony effectively neutralized, chances are that he or she will not interrupt you with that subjective tactic again.

Stress the importance of basing religious truth not on someone's testimony but on the objective Word of God. Remind the Mormon of what Proverbs 14:12 says: "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man; but the end thereof are the ways of death" (emphasis added). On the other hand, Jesus has assured us that His Word will remain forever (Mark 13:31).

#### Use Only the King James Version of the Bible

Don't try using your New American Standard Bible or New International Version with a Mormon. You will need to use the King James Version because this is the version officially accepted and used by the Mormon church. (Throughout this book, all Scripture quotations are from the KJV).

Also, do not allow a Mormon to cite a Scripture verse off the top of his head. Mormons often misquote Bible verses. Say something like, "Let's turn to that passage and read it in context."

#### Read Bible Verses Aloud

One helpful technique for dealing with the "triggered responses" of the Mormons is to request that they read a particular verse aloud, and then ask, "What is being said here?"

If they spout off the typical Mormon interpretation, ask them to read it aloud again, slowly and carefully – and ask again what is being said. If you are persistent, you'll help the Mormons see for themselves that there are contradictions and problems with the Mormon view.

#### **Ask Leading Questions**

You will not be able to force your opinion of what a verse means on a Mormon. But if you can help the Mormon discover problems in Mormon theology for himself, then you've accomplished an important goal in your witnessing. Harry L. Ropp, a Christian author who served as a missionary to Mormons, said that creating doubt in a Mormon's mind is an effective way to overcome ingrained teachings that inhibit Mormons from accepting the true gospel.

One great way to help a Mormon discover problems in Mormon theology is by asking strategic questions based on key verses, all the while remaining tactful and kind. Remember, Jesus often asked questions to make a point. David Reed rightly notes that "rather than shower his listeners with information, (Jesus) used questions to draw answers out of them. A person can close his ears to facts he doesn't want to hear, but if a pointed question causes him to form the answer in his own mind, he cannot escape the conclusion – because it's a conclusion that he reached himself." We must us this same type of methodology with Mormons.

The right question, asked in a non-defensive, non-challenging, unemotional way, may cause the Mormon to find him- or herself face to face with a doctrine (such as the absolute deity of Christ) that is completely contrary to what the Mormon church teaches. By considering such a question, the Mormon is forced to come to a conclusion in his or her own mind. In fact, if you and the Mormon mutually agree to meet every week or two to discuss different issues, you can be confident that the cumulative effect of such

questions will slowly but surely erode his belief system so that he is more open to the true

gospel.

In each chapter of this book, we will suggest sample questions you might ask the Mormon. But remember what we said in the introduction: Don't assume that just because you ask one or more of these questions the Mormon will promptly repent of his faulty views and become a Christian. The questions are not presented as "scripts" which – if precisely followed – guarantee that the Mormon will see the light. (The Mormon may or may not respond on any given occasion.) These questions are simply examples of apologetic argumentation. If used consistently, questions like these can help you effectively demonstrate to the Mormon that his or her views are unbiblical.

Also keep in mind that Mormons don't always use the exact same approach when dealing with a particular passage of Scripture. Sometimes they may present a sophisticated line of argumentation that you haven't heard before. If that happens, don't panic. Take one verse at a time. Examine the context. Compare Scripture with Scripture. And if they ask you a question that you don't know how to answer, simply say, "That's a good question. I don't know the answer. But I'm going to look into this matter and we'll talk about it the next time you come by."

#### **Undermine the Mormon Church's Authority**

Mormons read the Scriptures and interpret various doctrines through the lens of the LDS church. Therefore, in every doctrinally focused encounter you have with a Mormon, you will want to watch for opportunities to undermine the authority of the LDS church by demonstrating that its leaders – including founder Joseph Smith – were (and are) false prophets. By so doing, you help to remove this distorted "pair of glasses" so the Mormon can see more clearly.

If you can lovingly demonstrate that Mormon prophets have contradicted one another and have been wrong time and time again in their predictions, this will serve to call into question everything else the LDS church teaches. As you continue to chip away at the Mormon's confidence in the LDS church, you will find it easier to make doctrinal points with him or her (via leading questions like those in this book).

In the chapters to come we will expose some of the more important false prophecies. You will want to thoroughly familiarize yourself with them so they will be a your fingertips during the witnessing encounter.

#### Disarm the "Attack" Accusation

Mormons often object to Christian efforts to criticize Mormonism by saying something like, "Mormons don't attack you; why are you attacking us?"

If a Mormon says this to you, you should respond by pointing out that Joseph Smith, based on his alleged First Vision, said that all the existing churches were "all wrong" and "corrupt." It is therefore the Mormons who "attacked" first. Christians are simply defending the Christian faith against the attack of Mormonism.

#### READ ALOUD LUKE 18:9-14

#### **Read Other Good Literature About the Mormons**

The book you are holding in your hands will help you "reason from the Scriptures" with Mormons. But there are other good books that will help equip you for other important aspects of witnessing to Mormons. For example:

- A book that will help you understand why people leave the Mormon church is *Ex-Mormons: Why We Left*, edited by Latayne C. Scott (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1993).
- A book that will help you understand Mormon culture and the Mormon's relentless pursuit of "perfection" is *Speaking the Truth in Love to Mormons*, by Mark J. Cares (Milwaukee, WI: Northwestern Publishing House, 1993).
- A book that will help you understand the occultic elements in Mormonism is *Mormonism, Magic and Masonry*, by Jerald and Sandra Tanner (Salt Lake City, UT: Utah Lighthouse Ministry, 1988).
- A general book that will help you see how Mormons and other cultists twist Scripture toward their own ends is *Scripture Twisting: 20 Ways the Cults Misread the Bible*, by James W. Sire (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1980).

By exposing yourself to books that deal with different aspects of Mormonism, you will become an effective tool in the hands of God for bringing these lost souls into the kingdom of light.

### Responses to Mormon Claims:

**Claim 1:** "The Book of Mormon is the most correct book on Earth...man will get nearer to God by it more than any other"

#### Response:

- A. Even Mormon history has shown that there have been 3,913 significant changes to the book of Mormon since 1830, even though Joseph Smith claimed that "Every letter & word was given by the power of God"
- B. There are over 27,000 words directly quoted from the KJV of the Bible which claim to be unique and a 'Direct' source from God. Yet the book of Mormon even contains italicized words from the KJV which were written by the editors for notes (clarification) Why then, would a Book (Mormon) which claims to have been written between 600BC-421AD need to be translated into archaic language of the 1600's which was a 1000 years before the translation and 220 years after the KJV was made? = Totally Illogical and ludicrous.
- C. There is NO archaeological evidence (Secular or religious) whatsoever to support any notion that Jews migrated to the Americas and became pre-Colombian Indians. There is no evidence at all of any people group or large fortified cities, or massive wars and thousands of casualties in any of the places stated by Mormons. Refer quotes from Smithsonian, National Geographic, and Bureau of American Ethnology.
- **D.** At best, the Book of Mormon totally contradicts Mormon Theology: (Though it is "the 'KEYstone' to our Religion & the Fullness of the everlasting Gospel."
  - There is only One God: (Mosiah 15:1-5; Alma 11:28; 2 Nephi 31:21)
  - Rather than man evolving to Godhood, God is unchanging: (Mormon 9:9,19; Moroni 8:18; Alma 41:8; 3 Nephi 24:6)
  - God is a Spirit (Alma 18:24-28; 22:9-11; 31:15)
  - Polygamy is outlawed (Jacob 1:15, 2:23ff; Mosiah 11:2-4; Ether 10:5)

Claim 2: "There is No salvation without Joseph Smith." –10<sup>th</sup> Pres. "Every man, woman, & child must have the certificate of J. Smith as their passport to the mansion where God & Christ are." J. Smith, Journal of Discourses 7:238

**Response:** The Bible simply states that "there is salvation in NO ONE ELSE; and there is no other name under heaven or earth by which man can be saved, except the name of Jesus." (Acts 4:12 & John 14:6) Read John 10:1 and know that the Lord warned of any who would claim that salvation could come another way.

## **Claim 3**: "The Lord created you and me for the purpose of becoming Gods like himself" – B. Young

"As Man now is, God once was; as God now is, man will become"-5th Pres.

- Moses 4:11 & Doctrines & Covenants 76:58; 132:20, 37

**Response:** Mormons base their idea of becoming a god of their own universe on a mere hope of 'progressing' after death. Obviously there is no factual proof for this theory as no one has ever returned from the dead to declare their God-hood. As well, this belief rests on the vision of one man (J. Smith) who died in a gun battle while in Jail. Contrary to this belief, the Bible has very clear teaching that wishing, striving for, and desiring to be God or even like a god is the pinnacle of PRIDE & utter blasphemy. Satan was kicked out of Heaven and doomed for eternity for the same desire (Ezekiel 28 & Isaiah 14).

The Bible makes it clear that we, as humans, were created and will ever remain in submission to a Holy and Unique God (Gen. 1:26; Psalm 100:3; Rev. 7:9-10; Acts 14:14; John 15:5; 2 Cor. 3:5).

## Claim 4: "The recent dead and ancient dead ancestors may be evangelized and released from a spirit Prison"

Response: Mormons base this extensive theology and hope on one misinterpreted verse (1 Cor. 15:29). The Bible no where else states this view. This verse rather is a question from Paul to the church a Corinth and refers to "they" as another group not in the Church = (hardly conclusive that baptism for the dead is allowed). Instead, the Bible clearly states "It is appointed for men to die once, and then the judgment" (Heb. 9:27). There are no Second Chances after this life to receive Christ (Luke 16:19-31; Rev. 19-20).

Church of Jesus Christ. "This is not just another church. This is the church and kingdom of God, the only true church upon the face of the earth." - - 13<sup>th</sup> Pres. Also, "Salvation is in the church, of the church, and only obtained through the church." -Apostle M. Petersen

**Response:** Our Faith is placed in the Object of Salvation, who is a person (Christ Jesus) and are forever bought, adopted, elected, & sealed as His Bride, the CHURCH for eternity (Rev. 4 & 8).

**Claim 6:** The 9 step process of Salvation as per 2<sup>nd</sup> Pres. Brigham Young, Journal of Discourses 6:299; 7:289 & Article 3 of Mormon Articles of Faith:

- 1. Believe in Jesus Christ
- 2. Believe in Joseph Smith
- 3. Believe in Brigham Young
- 4. Confess that Jesus is the Christ
- 5. Confess that Joseph Smith was the prophet
- 6. Confess that Brigham Young was Smith's successor
- 7. Repent
- 8. Be Baptized by Immersion
- 9. Receive the Holy Spirit by the Laying on of hands
- Then, you will be saved & (only) as you obey the ordinances laws/deeds of the gospel.

Response: Ephesians 2:8-9 (Romans 10:9-10, 13)

#### What make, Mormonism attractive to the World:

- -Mormonism seeks to answer life's tough questions
- -Mormonism maintains high moral & Spiritual standards
- -Mormonism provides a rigorous & detailed schedule of life
- -Mormonism seeks to promote 'Jesus' and His life
- -Mormonism promotes great family values & community
- -Mormons promote Genealogy and have a wealthy following
- -Mormons Believe and Teach they are the ONE true Church

## Interesting facts you'll never hear Mormons tell you!